SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the incidents of suicide and other difficulties faced by cotton farmers are not because of giving encouragement to the synthetic fibre industry. So far as the point raised by the honourable Member is concerned, regarding fixation of import duty various factors like indigenous production, supply and demand, prices prevailing in the foreign markets and the fluctuations thereof, are taken into consideration. Various other factors also come in, and, of course, the prices of natural fibres which are grown here, are also taken into consideration.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: In view of the hardship that is being caused to the handloom industry and also the farmers, will this be kept in mind or not? That is what I am asking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will keep everything in mind.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister whether he is aware that while presenting the budget, the then Finance Minister had announced certain concessions and that the prices would come down? Is it not the experience of the Finance Ministry that the prices have gone up, of polyester yarn and nylon yarn, throwing the handloom and power loom sector into disarray? Secondly, the recent announcement of concessions in import duty on MEG—certain varieties—as well as increases in import duty on paraxylene, has created a distortion in the import duty structure and in the prices of the final products.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, so far as the statement by the honourable Finance Minister while presenting the budget is concerned, we are certainly, and naturally, aware of it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You are aware, but are you withdrawing it or not?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The question of withdrawal, at this satge, does not arise.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Why?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Because the companies which enjoyed these subsidies and which also assured that they would be reflected in the consumer prices, came up with certain figures, which we also verified, that the prices in the foreign markets have increased. I will give certain figures: In March 1988, DMT was US $ 560—630 per tonne. We find that in October it had gone up to US $ 726.. *(Interruptiones)*:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What about nylon yarn and polyester yarn? What are you going to say on that?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The question was very simple. He should have answered it in a simple way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

दालों संबंधी आयात शुल्क में वृद्धि

*105. श्री शमीम हाशमी :
श्री मुरलीधर चन्द्रकान्त भंडारे :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने दालों संबंधी आयात शुल्क में हाल ही में वृद्धि की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी प्रतिशत वृद्धि की गई है;

(ग) इस वृद्धि के क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इस वृद्धि की घोषणा के परिणामस्वरूप बाजार में दालों के मूल्य बहुत अधिक बढ़ गये हैं; और

(ङ) दालों के घरेलू मूल्यों तथा देश में इसके संपूर्ण उत्पादन पर इसका क्या असर होने की संभावना है?

वित्त संत्रालय में राजस्व विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत पांजा) : (क) और (ख) दालों पर आयात शुल्क को 3 अक्तूबर, 1988 से मल्यानुसार 10% से बढ़ाकर 35% कर दिया गया है।

(ग) यह वृद्धि चालू वर्ष में अच्छी फसल की संभावना को मद्दे नजर रखते हुए और किसानों को लाभकर मूल्य दिलाने में सहायता करने की दृष्टि से की गई है;

(घ) अक्तूबर, 1988 के दौरान, दालों के मूल्यों में कुछ वृद्धि हुई है। बहुत-सी दालों के मल्यों में अब कमी की प्रवृत्ति दिखाई देने लगी है।

(ङ) आयात की गई दालें, कुल आपूर्ति का थोड़ा ही प्रतिशत बैठती हैं और मूल्य मुख्यतः मांग और स्वदेशी आपूर्ति के द्वारा नियंत्रित होते हैं। आयात शुल्क में वृद्धि से लाभकर मूल्य बनाए रखने में कुछ हद तक सहायता मिलेगी और इस प्रकार इससे स्वदेशी उत्पादन बढ़ाने में सहायता मिलेगी।

Incidents of Bomb blasts in Srinagar

*106. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent disturbing incidents of bomb blasts and sabotage involving Central Government buildings and also firing incidents in crowded places in Srinagar; if so, whether Government have made any investigation as to who are behind such incidents and what action has been taken against them; and

(b) whether Government have ascertained the veracity of the reports to the effect that young boys of senior Jammu and Kashmir Government officials were also involved in these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have reported that a group of youth from Kashmir have been taken across the border to be trained for indulging in subversive activities and to create uncertainty in the State. Following a close watch the State Government have apprehended a number of persons. Arms and ammunition have also been recovered.

(b) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have not reported anything to this effect.

Excise duty concession on diesel used in Mechanised Boats by Fishermen

*107. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government had approached the Government of India on the 28th July, 1988 for waiving off the Central excise duty on diesel which is used for operation of mechanised boats by the fishermen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large trawlers are entitled to such exemption while small mechanised fishing crafts are not getting such exemption; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for such discrimination between large trawlers and small mechanised fishing crafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) In their letter dated 28th of July, 1988 the Government of Maharashtra have requested for excise duty concession on diesel oil used by smaller fishing vessels.